



CES Environmental Services, Inc. Site Proposed Removal Action

stolen. The July incident is believed to be the result of an intentional opening of a valve, which drained oil and oily water from a tanker trailer

used for oil-water separation. Rainfall transported spilled material off site into the residential area south of the facility along Kingsberry Street.

The following entities participated in various spill responses: CES Estate, City of Houston, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the EPA.

This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- Background Information
- Potential Threats to Public Health and Welfare
- Response Action Update
- What to Expect
- For More Information

Background Information

The CES Environmental Services Inc. (Site) is a former chemical recycling facility located at 4904 Griggs Road, Houston, Harris County, Texas. Other contiguous properties associated with the Site are 4900 Griggs Road and 5910 Wayland Street. The Site is surrounded by residential, educational, and commercial properties.

CES Environmental Services filed for bankruptcy in 2010. The property is part of the CES Bankruptcy Estate, which is being managed by a Trustee appointed by the bankruptcy court. The Trustee's job is to liquidate assets of the Estate for the benefit of the creditors.

There are numerous chemical containers located on Site consisting of approximately 11 vacuum boxes, 2 roll-off boxes, 12 frac tanks, 2 tanker trailers, 22 above ground storage tanks (ASTs), 19 wastewater treatment tanks, waste piles, and numerous totes, vats, drums, and smaller containers. These containers contain materials including acids, corrosives, flammables, and specific hazardous wastes including benzene, cresol (phenols), lead, and chromium. These containers have not been actively managed since August 2010.

Two known significant spill incidents occurred in March and July of 2014. The March incident was the result of the theft of on-site equipment including 2 tanker trailers and 7 roll-off boxes. The materials were dumped to the ground, into on-site containment structures, and the equipment was

ing adequate funding, the Trustee continues site issues at the Site in coordination with EPA. Since September 2014, the bulk of the on the property were addressed by the EPA

Threats to Public Health and Welfare

Threats to public health and welfare are the numerous chemical containers located on the Site. The chemical odors emanating from the Site are the result of compromised chemical containers containing cresol/phenolic compounds and historic spillage. The odors and potential threats will continue until all waste materials are removed from the Site and properly disposed.

Regulatory agencies recognize that chemical spills occurred on the Site and likely caused both on and off-site contamination. The contamination will require further investigation. Step one in this process is the conduction of a Preliminary Assessment, which was initiated by TCEQ.

Response Action Update

The Environmental Protection Agency, TCEQ, and the City of Houston, continue to work closely to address the Site's issues. The EPA's response actions on the Site began in late August 2014. The initial steps included sampling the on-site containers to determine chemical composition and possible disposal options. To date, the EPA has sampled and/or received analytical results on almost all of the larger containers.

As of Nov. 21, 2014, the EPA completed the following actions:

- 7 of 11 vacuum/roll-off boxes transferred and/or disposed (2 of 11 disposed of by the Trustee);
- 3 of 11 frac tanks disposed;
- 3 of 22 ASTs disposed (chemicals removed from 3

AST secondary containments);

- 2 of 2 tanker trailers disposed;
- storm water managed to reduce off-site drainage;
- lab chemicals consolidated and disposed by Trustee;
- old chemical products removed and disposed from the Wayland Warehouse by Trustee;
- debris from stolen roll offs removed and disposed of by Trustee.

Continued actions will include the clean up and disposal of all containers and visually contaminated asphalt/concrete, soil, and debris.

In order to manage on-site contaminated storm water, the EPA and the City of Houston agree to allow active discharge of waste into the City of Houston's sanitary sewer in order to prevent storm water from running off site into the corner of Wayland/Griggs Road. This action will not completely eliminate runoff from the facility during heavy rain events but will reduce the volume that typically escapes untreated.

The City of Houston is also providing potable water to the EPA for use during cleaning activities on the Site.

Since the response action began in late August 2014, the EPA experienced two theft/vandalism events. The first event was the theft of batteries from a piece of equipment. The second was the vandalism of a project fence blocking Wayland Street. These types of events slow progress. The EPA asks all residents to continue to be vigilant and report suspicious activity by contacting the Houston Police Department.

What to Expect During the Next Month and Beyond

The EPA expects to complete the disposal of all of the materials from the vacuum boxes, in addition to making substantial progress on the frac tanks and ASTs. Additionally, the EPA expects to dewater the pooled areas, pending rainfall, and remove what is believed to be contaminated sediment. Continued sampling of containers is needed in order to meet the appropriate detection limits for contamination.

Please keep in mind that waste cannot be shipped off site for disposal until a disposal facility agrees to accept the waste and schedules it for pickup.

Also, the scope of the current action being taken by the EPA includes the following:

- Removal/disposal of chemicals on the facility.
- Removal/disposal of visible chemical spillage to soil and other surfaces on the facility.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the CES Environmental Services Removal Action, please contact:

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